

### **Remarks**

The Office Action mailed August 12, 2004 has been reviewed. Prior to becoming aware of the issuance of the Office Action, Applicant filed a preliminary amendment on August 26, 2004, in an effort to amend the claims prior to the Examiner's examination of the application. Upon receiving the preliminary amendment, the Examiner kindly informed Applicant's attorney that the preliminary amendment was filed subsequent to the mailing of the Office Action. In view thereof, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled by the present amendment, and new claims 3-17 have been added. Applicant believes claims 3-17 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

### **Double-Patenting**

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 2 and 5 of co-pending Application No. 10/051,418.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 2 is overcome in view of cancellation of claims 1 and 2 and the submission of new claims 3-17.

In view thereof, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and examine the claims now pending in the application.

This Amendment is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed August 12, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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